Claims

What is claimed is:

1   1.   A method to facilitate network-based shopping comprising;

2   facilitating a communication between a network-based auction facility and a seller

3   whereby the seller authorizes a bidder to bid on an offering offered for sale by the seller;

4   and

5   automatically recording the bidder as authorized to bid on the offering responsive to

6   the communication.

1   2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the network-based auction facility prevents the

2   bidder from bidding on the offering without the authorization from the seller.

1   3.   The method of claim 1, wherein the bidder and the seller have buying and selling

2   privileges respectively with the network-based auction facility.

1   4.   The method of claim 1, wherein the communication includes a seller request to

2   authorize bidders to bid on the offering.

1   5.   The method of claim 1, wherein the communication includes allowing the seller to

2   add and to remove an authorization restriction multiple times during an auction of the

3   offering.

1   6.   The method of claim 4, wherein the communication includes a bidder request to the

2   seller to authorize the bidder to bid on the offering.

1   7.   The method of claim 4, including providing access to the seller to the bidder's

2   bidding history and profile information thereby to assist the seller in determining whether

3   to authorize the bidder to bid on the offering.

1   8.   The method of claim 7, wherein the bidder's bidding history and profile information

2   is provided by the network-based auction facility.

1   9.   The method of claim 1, wherein the item includes a high profile offering.

1   10.   The method of claim 1, wherein the network includes the Internet.

1   11.   The method of claim 10, wherein the network-based auction facility includes the

2   auction web site.

1   12.   The method of claim 10, wherein an authorization restriction requirement is

2   displayed on the offering web page.

1   13.   The method of claim 1, wherein a seller vetting process information is displayed on

2   a personalized web page of the seller linked to a web page of the offering.

1   14.   The method of claim 1, wherein the seller authorizes only a predetermined currency

2   to be used to purchase the offering offered for sale by the seller.

1   15.   The method of claim 1, wherein the seller authorizes a predetermined geographic

2   area, and wherein a bidder within the predetermined geographic area is allowed by the

3   network-based auction facility to bid on the offering offered for sale by the seller and a

4   further bidder outside the predetermined geographic area is prevented from bidding on

5   the offering.

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1   16.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2   facilitating a communication between a network-based shopping facility and a seller

3   whereby the seller authorizes a buyer to buy an offering offered for sale by the seller; and

4   automatically recording the buyer as authorized to buy the offering responsive to

5   the communication.

1   17.   A system to facilitate network-based shopping comprising:

2   a communications module to facilitate a communication between a network-based

3   auction facility and a seller; and

4   an authorization module to facilitate a seller authorization of a bidder to bid on an

5   offering via the communication.

1   18.   The system of claim 17, wherein the authorization module is to prevent the

2   bidder from bidding on the offering without the authorization from the seller.

1   19.   The system of claim 17, wherein the bidder and the seller have buying and selling

2   privileges respectively with the network based auction facility.

1   20.   The system of claim 17, wherein the communication includes a seller request to

2   authorize bidders to bid on the offering

1   21.   The system of claim 17, wherein the seller can add and remove the pre-approval

2   restriction multiple times during the auction of the offering.

1   22.   The system of claim 20, wherein the communication includes a bidder request to the

2   seller to authorize the bidder to bid on the offering.

1   23.   The system of claim 20, wherein the communications module is to provide access to

2   the seller to the bidder's bidding history and profile information thereby to assist the seller

3   in determining whether to authorize the bidder to bid on the offering.

1   24.   The system of claim 23, wherein the bidder's bidding history and profile information

2   is provided by the network-based auction facility.

1   25.   The system of claim 17, wherein the offering includes a high profile offering.

1   26.   The system of claim 17, wherein the network includes the Internet.

1   27.   The system of claim 26, wherein the network-based auction facility includes the

2   auction web site.

1   28.   The system of claim 26, wherein an authorization restriction requirement is

2   displayed on the offering web page.

1   29.   The system of claim 17, wherein a seller vetting process information is displayed on

2   a personalized web page of the seller linked to a web page of the offering.

1   30.   The system of claim 17, wherein the seller authorizes only a predetermined currency

2   to be used to purchase the offering offered for sale by the seller.

1   31.   The system of claim 17, wherein the seller authorizes a predetermined geographic

2   area, and wherein a bidder within the predetermined geographic area is allowed by the

3   network-based auction facility to bid on the offering offered for sale by the seller and a

4   further bidder outside the predetermined geographic area is prevented from bidding on

5   the offering.

1   32.   The system of claim 17, further comprising:

2   a communications module to facilitate a communication between a network-based

3   shopping facility and a seller; and

4   an authorization module to facilitate a seller authorization of a buyer to buy an

5   offering via the communication.

1   33.   A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a set of instructions to translate

2   instructions, the set instructions, which when executed by a processor, cause the processor

3   to perform a method to facilitate network-based shopping comprising:

4   facilitating a communication between a network-based auction facility and a seller

5   whereby the seller authorizes a bidder to bid on an offering offered for sale by the seller;

6   and

7   automatically recording the bidder as authorized to bid on the offering responsive to

8   the communication.

1   34.   A system to facilitate network-based shopping comprising:

2   means for facilitating a communication between a network-based auction facility

3   and a seller; and

4   means for facilitating a seller authorization of a bidder to bid on an offering via the

5   communication.